

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 EB-11 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 191736Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2426

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC DIRECTORATE MEETING

REF: ROME 13766

1. SUMMARY: DC DIRECTORATE MEETING DEC 18 FEATURED FORCEFUL SPEECH BY FANFANI. HIGHPOINTS OF SPEECH INCLUDED RECOMMENDATION THAT ITALY MAKE AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO ARAB, US AND EC PROPOSALS FOR DEALING WITH ENERGY CRISIS, FIRM REAFFIRMATION OF DC "NO" TO PCI OFFER OF "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" WHILE AT SAME TIME SPELLING OUT GENERAL RULES FOR COALITION ACCEPTANCE OF OPPOSITION PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT AND CALL FOR COOPERATION OF ALL "DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN DEALING WITH COUNTRY'S PRESSING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. DOCUMENT APPROVING FANFANI SPEECH VOTED UNANIMOUSLY. IN ENSUING DEBATE, DC EX-JUSTICE MIN GONELLA STATED THAT REFERENDUM ON DIVORCE ISSUE NOW INEVITABLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. DC DIRECTORATE MET DEC 18 FOR DISCUSSION PRINCIPALLY DEVOTED TO

ENERGY CRISIS, COMMUNIST OFFER OF "HISTORIC COMPROMISE," AND URGENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING CENTER-LEFT COALITION. PARTY SEC FANFANI GAVE KEYNOTE SPEECH, FOLLOWED BY ORDERLY DEBATE AND UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF POLICY DOCUMENT UNDERLINING ADHERENCE TO DECISIONS OF JUNE DC PARTY CONGRESS, DESIRE OF PARTY TO INDUCE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOLUTION OF URGENT PROBLEMS FACING NATION AND DC OPPOSITION TO EXTREME RIGHT AND COMMUNISTS.

3. AFTER REFERENCE TO POSITIVE RESULTS OF RECENT CENTER-LEFT "SUMMIT" (ROME 13766) IN REAFFIRMING GOVT COHESION, FANFANI TURNED TO ENERGY CRISIS. SEEKING TO OFFEND NO ONE AND KEEP OPTIONS OPEN, FANFANI SAID ITALY SHOULD GIVE "AFFIRMATIVE AND COORDINATED" RESPONSE TO ARABS, WHO CALL FOR NEW FORMS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH CONSUMING COUNTRIES, TO US, WHICH ADVOCATES COORDINATED ENERGY POLICY INVOLVING EUROPE, JAPAN AND THE US, AND TO EC, WHICH SEEKS UNIFIED ENERGY POLICY OF THE NINE. SUCH A RESPONSE WOULD PERMIT ITALY TO UTILIZE POSSIBILITIES INHERENT IN EACH OF THESE "PROPOSALS."

4. FANFANI AMPLIFIED AND REITERATED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT NEGATIVE REPLY TO PCI OFFER OF "HISTORIC COMPROMISE." REAFFIRMING DECISIONS OF 12TH DC CONGRESS ON RELATIONS WITH COMMUNISTS, FANFANI RESTATED CONGRESS POSITION THAT GOVT COALITION CAN ACCEPT SUGGESTIONS AND VOTES FROM PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION IF THIS DOES NOT DAMAGE GOVT'S PROGRAM OR COHESION. EMPHASIZING "NET OPPOSITION" TO PCI BASED ON DIFFERENT IDEALS AND STRATEGY, FANFANI SAID DC RESPECT FOR ABOVE GROUND RULES IN DEALING WITH PCI HAS INDUCED COMMUNISTS TO OFFER "DIFFERENT TYPE OF OPPOSITION" TO GOVT. HOWEVER, ACCEPTANCE OF OCCASIONAL PCI SUPPORT MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO WEAKEN DEMOCRATIC AND LIBERTARIAN STRUCTURE AND PRINCIPLES. HE QUOTE DE GASPARI IN SAYING: "WE ARE AGAINST COMMUNISM BECAUSE WE ARE FOR DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY."

6. FANFANI CALLED FOR FIRM COOPERATION AMONG "DEMOCRATIC FORCES" TO DEAL WITH URGENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING ITALY AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT LARGE MAJORITY OF ITALIANS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT NECESSARY SACRIFICES TO INSURE LIBERTY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. IN CLOSING, HE CITED PROGRESS MADE (UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP) IN IDEOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF DC.

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7. IT MAY ALSO BE SIGNIFICANT THAT FANFANI DID NOT REPEAT NOT DIVORCE REFERENDUM IN HIS SPEECH. IN SUBSEQUENT DEBATE BETWEEN "BASE" LEADER GALLONI AND CENTER-RIGHT, EX-JUSTICE MIN GONELLA, LATTER INTERRUPTED GALLONI REFERENCE TO NEED TO AVOID REFERENDUM WITH BLUNT OBSERVATION THAT SUCH TALK IS USELESS AS REFERENDUM IS CERTAIN TO TAKE PLACE. (COMMENT: GONELLA'S REPORTED REMARK TALLIES WITH IMPRESSION WE HAVE THAT WITH PASSAGE OF TIME MANY

POLITICIANS HERE SEE LESS AND LESS HOPE THAT REFERENDUM ON DIVORCE
ISSUE CAN BE AVOIDED. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT DC PARTY, THE COALI-
TION, AND THE PUBLIC ARE BEGINNING TO ACCEPT IDEA THAT, WELCOME
OR NOT, REFERENDUM IN SPRING OF 1974 WILL IN FACT BE HELD.) VOLPE

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